

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4510

To provide for a nonvoting delegate to the House of Representatives to represent the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To provide for a nonvoting delegate to the House of Representatives to represent the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Northern Marianas
5 Delegate Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DELEGATE TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM**
7 **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARI-**
8 **ANA ISLANDS.**

9 The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
10 shall be represented in the United States Congress by the

1 Resident Representative to the United States authorized
2 by section 901 of the Covenant to Establish a Common-
3 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union
4 with the United States of America (approved by Public
5 Law 94–241 (48 U.S.C. 1801 note)). The Resident Rep-
6 resentative shall be a nonvoting Delegate to the House of
7 Representatives, elected as provided in this Act.

8 **SEC. 3. ELECTION OF DELEGATE.**

9 (a) ELECTORS AND TIME OF ELECTION.—The Dele-
10 gate shall be elected—

11 (1) by the people qualified to vote for the popu-
12 larly elected officials of the Commonwealth of the
13 Northern Mariana Islands; and

14 (2) at a general election in the year 1998, on
15 the day and month set by Article VIII, section 1, of
16 the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the North-
17 ern Mariana Islands, and at such general election
18 every 2d year thereafter.

19 (b) MANNER OF ELECTION.—The Delegate shall be
20 elected at large, by separate ballot, and by a majority of
21 the votes cast for the office of Delegate. If no candidate
22 receives such majority, on the 14th day following such
23 election a runoff election shall be held between the can-
24 didates receiving the highest and the 2d highest number
25 of votes cast for the office of Delegate.

1 (c) VACANCY.—In case of a permanent vacancy in the
2 office of Delegate, by reason of death, resignation, or per-
3 manent disability, the office of Delegate shall remain va-
4 cant until a successor is elected and qualified.

5 (d) COMMENCEMENT OF TERM.—The term of the
6 Delegate shall commence on the 3d day of January follow-
7 ing the date of the election.

8 **SEC. 4. QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE OF DELEGATE.**

9 To be eligible for the office of Delegate a candidate
10 shall—

11 (1) be at least 25 years of age on the date of
12 the election;

13 (2) have been a citizen of the United States for
14 at least 7 years prior to the date of the election;

15 (3) be an inhabitant of the Commonwealth of
16 the Northern Mariana Islands; and

17 (4) not be, on the date of the election, a can-
18 didate for any other public office.

19 **SEC. 5. DETERMINATION OF ELECTION PROCEDURE.**

20 Acting pursuant to legislation enacted in accordance
21 with the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the North-
22 ern Mariana Islands, the Government of the Common-
23 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands may determine
24 the order of names on the ballot for election of Delegate,
25 the method by which a special election to fill a vacancy

1 in the office of Delegate shall be conducted, the method
2 by which ties between candidates for the office of Delegate
3 shall be resolved, and all other matters of local application
4 pertaining to the election and the office of Delegate not
5 otherwise expressly provided for in this Act.

6 **SEC. 6. COMPENSATION, PRIVILEGES, AND IMMUNITIES.**

7 Until the Rules of the House of Representatives are
8 amended to provide otherwise, the Delegate from the Com-
9 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands shall receive
10 the same compensation, allowances, and benefits as a
11 Member of the House of Representatives, and shall be en-
12 titled to whatever privileges and immunities are, or herein-
13 after may be, granted to any other nonvoting Delegate to
14 the House of Representatives.

15 **SEC. 7. LACK OF EFFECT ON COVENANT.**

16 No provision of this Act shall be construed to alter,
17 amend, or abrogate any provision of the covenant referred
18 to in section 2 except section 901 of the covenant.

19 **SEC. 8. DEFINITION.**

20 For purposes of this Act, the term “Delegate” means
21 the Resident Representative referred to in section 2.

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